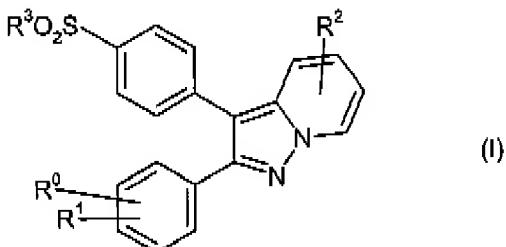


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In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof wherein

R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, and C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆hydroxyalkyl, SC₁₋₆alkyl, C(O)H, C(O)C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl, and C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R³ is C₁₋₆alkyl or NH₂.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₁₋₆alkoxy; R² is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is C₁₋₃alkyl or NH₂.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, C₁₋₃alkyl, and C₁₋₃alkoxy; R² is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

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4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, C₁₋₃alkyl and C₁₋₃alkoxy; R¹ is H; R² is C₁₋₃alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R² is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;
3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

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7. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-propionylbenzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl 4-[(4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-4-oxobutanoate;

4-[(4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-4-oxobutanoic acid;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-[(4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonyl]amino]-2-oxoethyl acetate;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

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methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and
tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.

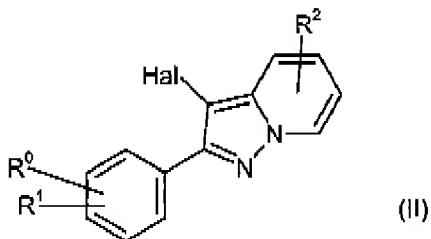
8. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

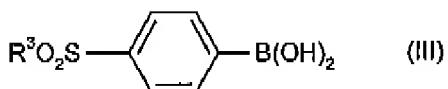
9. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

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(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I);
and(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of
such ester or amide derivative thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

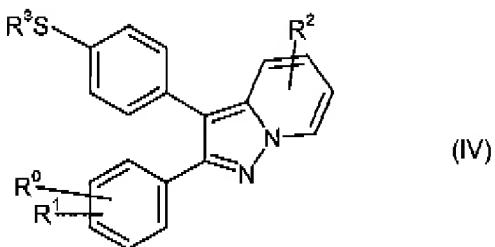
11.-16. Canceled.

17. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1,
wherein R⁰ is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, methyl and ethoxy;
R¹ is H; R² is trifluoromethyl; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R³ represents C₁₋₄alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)

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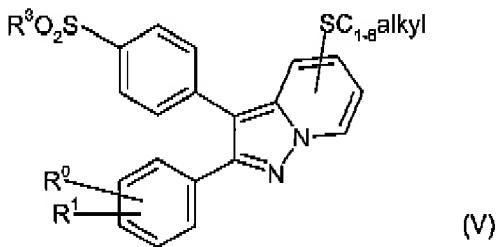


or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)



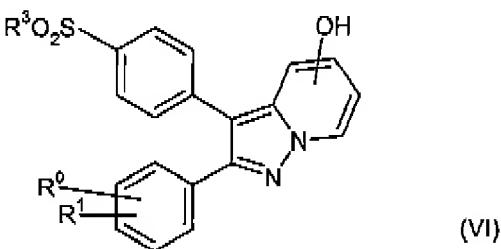
or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

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- (A) where R^2 is C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)

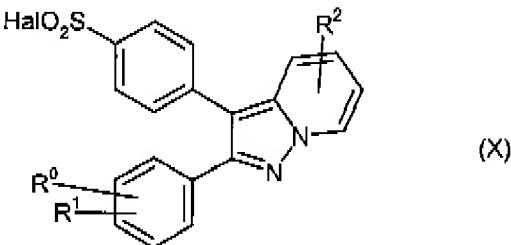


or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) where R^3 is NH_2 , reacting a compound of formula (X)



with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

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22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide derivative thereof.

24. Canceled.

25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition or disease selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

27. Canceled.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

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29. (Currently Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

30. – 34. Canceled.

35. (Previously Presented) 4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide.

36. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from lower back pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

37. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from neck pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

38. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

39. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from osteoarthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

40. (New) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from dysmenorrhoea, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.